

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 084491

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USCG ALSO PASS HARRY RIETZE REGIONAL DIRECTOR NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE, NOAA, FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING, JUNEAU ALASKA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 084491 ACTION TOKYO INFO GENEVA 14 APR

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT:JAPANESE TANNER CRAB FISHING IN EASTERN BERING SEA

REF: STATE 82299

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CLINGAN, LOS DEL

1. US OBSERVER MONITORING CATCHES OF TANNER CRAB ON
JAPANESE CRAB MOTHERSHIP WAS VERY RECENTLY ASKED BY
MOTHERSHIP OPERATORS AS TO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF TWO
FLEETS OPERATING IN CRAB FISHERY SHOULD EXCEED THEIR QUOTA
IN ONE AREA AND WHETHER THAT QUANTITY TAKEN IN EXCESS
OF QUOTA WOULD BE CHARGED AGAINST THEIR QUOTA FROM ANOTHER
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PAGE 02 STATE 084491

AREA.

2. MERE RAISING OF QUESTION CAUSES USG CONCERN SINCE WE BELIEVE OPERATION OF CRAB FISHERY CAN EASILY BE CONDUCTED IN MANNER TO AVOID EXCEEDING QUOTA. THESE MEASURES COULD INCLUDE LIMITING NUMBER OF CRAB POTS TO BE SET WHEN QUOTA IS NEARLY REACHED, ASSIGNING A FIXED QUANTITY THAT CAN BE LANDED WHEN QUOTA IS BEING APPROACHED AND THROWING OVERBOARD IMMEDIATELY ANY EXCESS CAUGHT, MAINTAINING CLOSE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MOTHERSHIPS AND CATCHER VESSELS AND BETWEEN TWO CRAB FLEETS, ETC. SHOULD FLEETS

EXCEED QUOTA, DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES THIS MAY GIVE RISE TO SERIOUS ACCUSATIONS OF CHEATING FROM US SIDE AS A RESULT OF PAST INDISCRETIONS COMMITTED BY JAPANESE FISHERMEN. SHOULD QUOTA BE INADVERTENTLY EXCEEDED, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE HOW THIS COULD OCCUR, THIS CAN BE EXPECTED TO EXPOSE TO STRONG CRITICISM OF US INDUSTRY NOT ONLY GOJ BUT USG AS WELL.

3. POST IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY TO GOJ CONCERN OF USG OVER THIS MATTER AND TO CALL TO GOJ'S ATTENTION THAT USG GAVE FIRM ASSURANCES TO US INDUSTRY AT DECEMBER 1974 NEGOTIATIONS THAT ENFORCEMENT MEASURES THEN UNDER CONSIDERATION WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CLOSELY MONITOR JAPANESE CATCHES. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS ONLY AFTER USG MADE A COMMITMENT THAT IT WOULD CAREFULLY OBSERVE OPERATION OF JAPANESE CRAB FISHERY TO MAKE SURE THAT INFRACTIONS WOULD NOT BE COMMITTED WERE WE ABLE TO OBTAIN CONCURRENCE FROM INDUSTRY TO EVEN CONSIDER GRANTING JAPAN A CRAB QUOTA. IN VIEW OF THIS BACKGROUND, GOJ'S COOPERATION IS REQUESTED IN IMMEDIATELY ADVISING JAPANESE CRAB OPERATORS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO NOT EXCEED QUOTA. PLEASE NOTE IN REFTEL THAT TWO FLEETS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH QUOTA APRIL 14 OR 15.

4. GOJ SHOULD ALSO BE REMINDED OF APPENDIX TO CRAB AGREEMENT WHICH STATES IN PARAGRAPH A THAT QUOTE...AND ANY TANNER CRABS TAKEN IN EXCESS OF THE AGREED QUOTAS SHALL BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO THE SEA WITH A MINIMUM OF INJURY UNQUOTE. ALSO USG CAN BE EXPECTED TO FILE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 084491

FORMAL PROTEST TO GOJ SHOULD QUOTA BE EXCEEDED.

5. POST SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT TANNER CRABS FISHED BY JAPAN IN SOUTHERN AREA ARE COMMERCIALY MORE VALUABLE THAN THOSE FOUND IN NORTHERN AREA WHERE JAPAN GIVEN MUCH LARGER QUOTA. SOUTHERN AREA CRABS CONSIST OF SPECIES CHIONECTES BAIRDI, WHICH ARE MUCH LARGER IN SIZE THAN CHIONECTES OPILIO WHICH ARE FOUND PREDOMINANTLY IN

NORTHERN AREA. THUS, THERE WOULD BE SOME INCENTIVE BY
JAPANESE TO EXCEED QUOTA IN SOUTHERN AREA AND THEY MAY
SUGGEST THAT QUANTITY TAKEN QUOTE INADVERTENTLY UNQUOTE
IN EXCESS OF QUOTA IN SOUTHERN AREA BE CHARGED TO
QUOTA FROM NORTHERN AREA. KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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